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WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 1904.

The Poll Tax.

There is still confusion in the minds of some people concerning the payment of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting in the election of 1904, and in order to remove any doubt that may exist Attorney-General Anderson has recently stated definitely and explicitly that

"The only State poll tax which any person must pay, as a prerequisite to the right to VOTE at any regular election held in the year 1904, is the State poll tax of \$1.50 assessed or assessable against such person for the year 1903."

It is perfectly clear from this statement that all registered voters who have paid the poll tax of \$1.50 for the year 1903, or if they have not paid, who shall have paid before May 7th 1904 the poll tax of \$1.50 for 1903, will be entitled to vote for President and congressman in the election to be held in November, 1904.

In other words if you are a registered voter and have paid your poll tax of \$1.50 for 1903, you will be entitled to vote in the presidential and congressional election to be held in November.

If you are a registered voter and have not paid poll tax, you will be entitled to vote in the November election provided you pay the poll tax of \$1.50 for 1903 prior to May 7, 1904.

But if you are a registered voter and have not paid your poll tax for 1903, and if you fail to pay it prior to May 7, 1904, you will not be entitled to vote in the November election, unless you are exempted from the payment of this tax as a war veteran.

Qualifications of a Mayor.

In his address before the citizens of Richmond on Saturday night, Captain McCarthy said that the modern Mayor, the Mayor we ought to have, should be capable of filling nine-tenths of the offices of the City Hall. It has now become a trite saying that a municipal corporation is a business corporation. Our municipal government does not deal with the fundamental principles of government involving the rights and immunities of citizenship, these are taken care of by the Federal government and the State government, while the municipal corporation is a creature of the State Legislature, having certain defined and restricted powers and performing certain functions concerning the welfare of the people who live within the bounds of the corporation. Our city government deals with the business affairs of the corporation, the Council making rules and regulations as provided for in the charter, and the Mayor exercising certain executive functions such, in the main, as the president of any private corporation would exercise.

That being the case, the Mayor should understand the affairs of the municipality as well as the president of a private corporation should understand its affairs, and the people in choosing a Mayor should be governed by the same motives which control the stockholders or directors of a private corporation in choosing a president. The Mayor should be a good business man, a man of initiative, a man of force and discretion, a man who has the ability and the courage to exercise a general supervision over the various departments of city government, to see that every officer of government does his duty, that the accounts are properly kept, that public funds are honestly and judiciously expended, and, in general terms, that all the business affairs of the municipal corporation are conducted in an honest and business like way. The Mayor should be the representative of the people, keeping them well advised as to what is going on in the municipality, making suggestions which seem to him in the public interest, and conserving as well as he may the public welfare.

Government Roads.

In the New York Tribune of Sunday is an illustrated article showing the improvement that the United States government has made in the roads of Porto Rico since that island became one of our possessions. Prior to that time the roads of Porto Rico were in a wretched condition, and at some seasons of the year were practically impassable. Most of the commerce of the island was carried on over wagon trails where carts and coaches mired to the axle. Towns of 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants depended for communication with the seaboard on miserable trails where even pack horses mired during the rainy season, and it cost the coffee and tobacco merchants

all their merchandise was worth to transport it to market.

"But," says this writer, "five years of continuous effort, backed by the expenditure of nearly \$2,000,000 by the government, have wrought wonderful changes, and smooth, well built roads, of the Massachusetts highway type, modified to meet climatic conditions, now connect most, if not all, the important towns."

That is what the government is doing for a little island, over which it assumed control a few years ago. But it is doing nothing for the improvement of the highways of the United States. Many of the roads in our own land are as bad as the roads of Porto Rico ever were. Yet, the government is not spending a dollar for improvement. If it is right for the government to expend money in improving the roads in Porto Rico, it is right for it to expend money for the improvement of the roads of the United States. This is a live question, and sooner or later the government will adopt the policy of improving its highways.

Let Us be Fair.

Mr. J. P. Morgan has recently celebrated his sixty-seventh birthday anniversary, and in mentioning the fact a New York correspondent says that in the past twelve months Mr. Morgan has lost his prestige in the opinion of the banking world, which he had built up with a life time of successes.

"A year ago," he adds, "he was the recognized leader of finance the world over. Now, he is referred to as 'the man who was'."

"In April, a year ago, the common shares of United States Steel Corporation sold at \$85. The \$55,000,000 of this issue was worth \$133,000,000. Now it is selling at 11, a shrinkage of \$137,500,000. On the original issue of \$500,000,000 of preferred stock, the shrinkage amounts to \$137,500,000."

"Steel stocks alone the public is \$274,400,000 poorer than it was on Mr. Morgan's last birthday."

"The Times-Dispatch does not care to appear in the roll of apologist for Mr. Morgan. But this seems to us a harsh and unfair statement. It is true that the stocks of the United States Steel Corporation had a terrible tumble, and as Mr. Morgan was the father of that giant combine, naturally he is held responsible for the slump. If the stocks of this corporation had been the only stocks to fall, Mr. Morgan might have hung his head in shame. But when comparisons are made with other concerns, it will be seen that the stocks of the United States Steel Corporation have held up almost as well as those of other corporations, which were boomed in 1901.

The stock of the St. Paul Railroad fell from 138 to 124; the stock of the Pennsylvania road fell from 170 to 112; Louisville and Nashville fell from 153 to 95; Atlantic Coast Line fell from 151 to 101. And so it went, to a greater or less extent, throughout the entire list of stocks.

Some of the industrial stocks made even a worse showing than the railroad stocks above referred to. The point which we make in Mr. Morgan's favor is that the slump in stocks was not confined by any manner of means to the shares of the United States Steel Corporation. So far as the corporation itself is concerned, it seems to have been well managed, and is in a very strong position to-day. If there should be another boom in the iron industry, such as there was soon after the company was organized, it is probable that the company's shares would greatly enhance in value. The United States Steel Corporation, as a business institution, is by no means a failure.

Many tobacco planters have been in the habit of selling small quantities of leaf to their neighbors and friends for home consumption, but it is against the law. Under the Gallies-Flood bill, which has passed the House of Representatives, it is proposed that this practice shall be legalized. The farmer will not be permitted to stem or twist the tobacco thus sold. As we understand, under the provisions of the bill as amended, there cannot be any manipulation of the leaf thus sold.

It is expected that the bill will pass the Senate without opposition.

Young men value their first votes very highly, and those of them who are affected by Judge Witt's decision will now more than ever hold him to be a great and just judge. His decision is that those who have become of age since the time expired for the payment of poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting in the June election of this year may demand to pay those taxes now. The effect of this is to allow a considerable number of proud young voters to pay their taxes and register at once, and vote in the primary and in the regular municipal election following.

"What's getting into" the senators anyway? Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, has gone and forgotten himself and given vent to inelegant language upon the floor of that august chamber. He says the Alaskans have made many sacrifices for this country, but that we haven't done a thing for them. The trouble is that he didn't leave the blank blank, but filled it with a word beginning with a "Q."

Miss Mary Gallagher, who has made a bust of Edgar Allan Poe, which has attracted some attention in Baltimore, owns up that one of the implements used by her in her work was a hairpin. In the portraiture Miss Gallagher does not follow any one of the photographs of Poe, but has designed it "to be pre-eminent an interpretation and presentation of the character and traits of the man."

The news columns do not necessarily warrant the statement, but it is generally believed that there is still some fighting going on in the neighborhood of Port Arthur.

The enterprising citizens of Barton Heights have sold bonds at par, which shows that the credit of Barton Heights is at, and the money so derived will be used for improving the water works and drainage and for other permanent betterments. We congratulate our neighbors upon their enterprise and success. We

Put it on right and it sticks tight, "BLACK MAMMY."

hope, however, that this does not mean that Barton Heights is to maintain a separate municipality. It is desirable that that beautiful suburban town be made a part of the corporation of Richmond, and the sooner the better.

The New York American, Mr. Hearst's paper, goes into hysterics over the New York platform, and says that the "conservatives" are trying to sell out the Democrats to the trusts. It comes in poor grace from Mr. Hearst to criticize the Democratic platform, as he is an advertised candidate for the presidential nomination, received no recognition whatsoever from the Democrats of his own State.

The Hon. David B. Hill, who has just achieved a victory over Tammany Hall in securing an "instructed delegation" for Judge Parker, must have grown quite rotund in recent years. At least newspaper cartoons of him give that impression. The caricaturist, while taking great liberties with his subject, usually holds on to his chief personal characteristics. If that be true, Mr. Hill is now a big man in a double sense.

The "pardon mill," which has lately afflicted some other States, does not grind to any alarming extent in old Virginia, no matter how high-toned the grist that is offered may have once been.

There has been a turn in the long lane. The Standard Oil Company has just announced a reduction of a half a cent a gallon in the price of all refined oils on their schedule.

With the New York convention and the Connecticut cars running so close together, next week's Commoner will not lack for copy to be leaded.

How quickly we forget things. Virginia folks are actually getting along real nicely without the dear old county courts once a month.

Your Uncle Grover's endorsement of the Parker boom does not seem to have damaged it to any alarming extent.

There is old comfort in the thought of the early coming of May. Congress will adjourn about that time.

Congress seems disposed to time its adjournment to fit in with the opening of the St. Louis Exposition.

Some of the professional base-ball teams were also nipped by the late frosts.

The more the candidates the merrier will be the gubernatorial primary. Alabama chose Bankhead, which was not Hobson's choice.

A persistent and persevering spring will get her at last.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Roanoke World sees the young men's chances in this way:

If Mr. Hearst would earn the respect and confidence of the Democratic country, he could not do a wiser deed than graciously withdraw from the presidential contest. He is a young man, and his future possibilities as a politician and statesman are unknown quantities.

The Buena Vista Advocate after discussing at some length the Parker boom says:

"In any event it is a source of much gratification to all good Democrats who have the interests of the country at heart to know that the Democracy has returned 'to sanity and patriotic effort.'"

The Charlottesville Progress has this to say on a very important subject.

It is impossible, however, to improve the schools materially, unless the people are willing to submit to an increase of local taxation for the purpose. We do not believe the time is near at hand when the country property-owners will agree to such an increase, so long as a part of the money thus raised is used in educating the negro away from the farm and is destroying his usefulness as a slave in the home.

This paragraph from the Newport News Press is, of course, just a joke and not a bad one:

Although a Virginian, Congressman Jones is bitterly opposed to the Jamestown Exposition appropriation. Envy of the prominence he is enjoying, which is in connection with the big show may be the "negro in the wood pile."

Personal and General.

H. J. Horn, recently chosen general manager of the Northern Pacific Railroad, entered the service of that corporation as a draughtsman fifteen years ago, receiving \$60 a month pay.

Mrs. W. G. Jones, who, next to Mrs. Gillett, is the oldest American actress on the stage, celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday last Thursday. She has been on the stage sixty-five years.

Alexander McC. Ashley, of Syracuse, N. Y., will go to Honolulu about June 1st to establish a regular observing station there and also a climate and crop service throughout the Hawaiian islands.

The late Rev. Charles Stroud has left his entire estate, amounting to \$300,000, to the Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ill. The will specifies that it shall be applied to endowment of the theological seminary.

Caleb Powers, the former Secretary of State for Kentucky, now in Louisville Jail, condemned to death for the murder of Governor Goebel, is writing a book covering his personal experiences during the troublesome days of Kentucky's fierce war for the control of the State.

Then and Now.

Originally the Bryan boycott embraced only those Democrats who refused to support Bryan. Latterly it has been extended so as to take in those who believed in the single gold standard, but who still held their convictions and voted for Bryan as a matter of party regularity. The Bryan test of regularity is a sort of Procrustean rule, but how far an independence of thought or difference of opinion, but makes every man think and act that the silver party is great and that Bryan is its only prophet.—Norfolk Landmark.

Richmond Did Well.

Richmond has done well in upping in the bud that merger of municipal and national politics, by which it was proposed to require voters in the mayoralty primary to pledge themselves to support the St. Louis nominee.—Norfolk Landmark.

FUNERAL OF CAPT. TAYLOR

Great Company of Friends Attend Services Over Remains of Aged Man.

A REMARKABLE CAREER

Would Have Been Ninety-four May 1st—Father of City's Mayor.

In the presence of a large gathering of friends and relatives, simple, but impressive funeral rites were conducted yesterday afternoon over the remains of Captain William Taylor, who died Sunday night at his home in this city, and the body was laid to rest in a beautiful and peaceful spot in Hollywood.

The service began at 4:30 o'clock in the Grace Street Baptist Church. The attendance was very large and almost filled the church. Four ministers were present on the rostrum—the Rev. Dr. C. S. Gardner, pastor of Grace Street; the Rev. Dr. W. E. Hatcher, of Richmond College; the Rev. L. B. Betty, pastor of Park Place Methodist Church; and the Rev. B. H. Melton, pastor of Marshall Street Christian Church. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful.

The singing by the choir was sweet and sad, particularly so being the solo by Mr. Haddon S. Watkins, "O Peace, Perfect Peace."

Dr. Hatcher, in a manner that is peculiarly and distinctly his own, delivered a short, but eloquent address, depicting the life and character of his noble old friend. An acquaintance of many years, made it possible for Dr. Hatcher to speak with a ready knowledge of the many large and striking traits that made Captain Taylor in his lifetime one of the best known of the city residents.

The interment was made in Hollywood, brief exercises being held at the grave. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers:

Honorary—Judge Samuel B. Witt, Judge Edmund Waddill, Colonel John S. Harwood, Colonel W. D. Chestnut, Dr. G. Watson James, Mr. Charles L. Todd, Mr. G. I. Herring, Mr. J. H. Dickerson, Mr. William H. Clemmitt, Mr. J. L. Edwards, Mr. T. William Pemberton, Mr. James D. McIntire, Mr. E. W. Gates and Mr. John H. Prischhorn.

The active pallbearers were Messrs. W. P. Knowles and James A. Angle and the following grandchilren: Messrs. George T. King, A. C. Moore, B. L. Morris, Calvin Cooke, Herbert V. Taylor and Harvey L. Taylor.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE. On May 1, 1810, in David, N. Y., was born William Taylor, the youngest son of parents of Danish descent. The family belonged to the famous Knickerbocker settlement of New York, and hailed from an old and sturdy stock.

Of the first years of his life there is but scant record. He passed through the usual experience of a very young man, and was educated and was soon noticed for a remarkably clear insight into business. At the age of twenty-one years he was commissioned captain of one hundred men.

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mon in the State of New York. It was an artillery company, and the young Taylor was at its head for about two years. The commission was signed by Governor Troup, of New York. Mr. Taylor was always proud of it and kept the paper framed about the house.

After sundry wanderings, Mr. Taylor landed in Baltimore and from there on April 6, 1835, set out for this city. The western boundary of Richmond in that day was the present Ninth Street. The trip was a laborious one and consumed more than a week. Mr. Taylor found in a few days before his death, "and it took me just one week to make the trip between Baltimore and Richmond. We left Baltimore at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of April 8th, and traveled nine miles between that time and night. We made our way as best we could by stages, and drove into Richmond at 3 P. M. on the 16th. There were no hotels here then, and we stopped at a tavern on what is now Seventeenth Street, kept by a Mrs. Beers. Richmond was then a small village as compared with the city of today. It had but 12,000 inhabitants and lacked the progressiveness which now characterizes it."

ENGAGED IN BUSINESS.

For about a year after he arrived in Richmond Mr. Taylor was general manager for the "Talmage" Ice Company, manufacturing of artificial machine-ice. Thereafter he engaged in the grocery and ship chandlers business on Main Street, near the Old Market. Trade was good, and here Mr. Taylor continued until the war. He built up a modest but sufficient fortune, in the strenuous days of the early '60s saw it all swept away. When the war began Mr. Taylor had \$30,000 invested in business, a considerable sum for that time; which was declared his entire estate, consisted of a single barrel of hard Confederate whiskey and one keg or barrel of clays pipes. This was the veriest irony of fate. In all of his long life the old man never touched whiskey or tobacco.

Though beyond the age of conscription, Mr. Taylor, then fifty-one years old, and by birth a Northerner, enlisted in the Confederate army and served gallantly in the Home Guard, under Colonel Wyndham Robinson. After the war started out again in business, meeting with more or less success. His business life after this was uneventful, and it is in his political career that the greatest interest centers.

In the days of long ago Mr. Taylor was one of the staunchest followers of Henry Clay, and it is recorded that he voted the Whig ticket as long as there was anybody on it. Among the celebrated politicians with whom he associated were John Minor Botts, John F. Lewis, Williams C. Wickham, Franklin Stearns, and others. Mr. Taylor took an active interest in local politics, and in the course of his life held eighteen different public offices. He was made a justice of the peace, which office he held for a period of about fifteen years. He then took a seat in the City Council and served during the war, being turned out by the military government. He served in the Virginia Legislature, and afterwards was made treasurer of Henrico county. He was at one time recorder of Richmond, and while holding that office acted as Mayor during the illness of Mayor Mason.

HIS PERSONAL SIDE.

This is in brief the history of the business and political life of Mr. Taylor. On the personal side of his career much more that is interesting might be written. In personal appearance Mr. Taylor was tall, well-proportioned and shaven. He was a very distinguished looking man, and bore about him the famous air of the old school that is now scarcely more than a memory. The secrets of his wonderful old age, if there was any secret, lay in his strictness of physical perfection. He was born with a noble constitution, and his powers of endurance were remarkable. This was at no time more evident than during the days upon the death-bed, as stated above. Mr. Taylor suffered no ailment except extreme old age. He had no physician except his son, Dr. William H. Taylor, the distinguished coroner of Richmond. At times he would sink so low that recovery would seem utterly impossible. Then with his wonderful constitution, he would rally and grow better until there were hopes that he might live yet several days. His approach to the end was marked by a series of those slinking spells. This came usually in the morning and the afternoon.

Some years ago Mr. Taylor retired from business, but he was always exceedingly active, both in mind and body. He took the keenest interest in his family and loved to go about. When his body began to wear out and grow debilitated, though there was still no disease in it, he could not walk much, and he took to riding. Finally he had to stay in his home almost entirely and to be carefully nursed. He still moved around some, but could not walk a great deal, and was easily tired. He retained every faculty, though upon his death-bed he lost power of speech.

Probably his last appearance in public was when he voted for his son, "Dick," for Mayor in the last election. He said then it would probably be the last vote he would ever cast, and his prediction was true. He knew nothing of the present election, the children systematically keeping from him anything that would tend to disturb his perfect peace of mind. Another time, when the old man came to his house to visit, his daughter, Mr. McKinley visited Richmond about five years ago. The President and Mayor Taylor became very friendly, and Mr. McKinley said he was glad to see an old man, and one most cordial friends was established between the two in a brief space of time. The President urged Mr. Taylor to come to see him at the White House, in Washington, and the old man always said he intended to make the trip. But he never did.

HIS FAMILY. Mr. Taylor's first wife died in 1833. In 1835 he was married to Mrs. Henrietta N. Moore. At that time he was nearly eighty-five years old. His second wife has given him the most devoted attention, and has endeavored to make him feel that he was still a part of the family. He has three children by his first wife, and five by his second. His children are: Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. John C. Taylor and Mrs. Ellen J. Blinn. Mrs. Cornelia Cora Cooke and Mrs. Walter H. Cheatham. He leaves also twenty-two or more grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Millard C. Robertson. The death of Mrs. Leona Robertson occurred at her home, No. 101 West Clay Street, after an illness of several weeks.

Mrs. Robertson was the wife of Mr. Millard C. Robertson. She was forty-seven years of age, and was the daughter of the late B. M. and E. M. At her husband's death she leaves her children—Alma May, Leslie Stokes, James B. Grace, Annie L. and H. L. Robertson. She is survived also by five brothers—Messrs. B. B. L. T. H. L. W. B. and Floyd Luck.

The funeral took place at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the Grace Street Baptist Church. The interment will be made in Oakwood.

Mrs. Martha Hatcher.

The death of Mrs. Martha Hatcher, one of the oldest and best known residents of Church Hill, occurred at 8 o'clock Monday night at the home of her



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son-in-law, Mr. Thomas Larus. No. 2815 East Grace Street.

Mrs. Hatcher was eighty-three years of age, and was greatly beloved in a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Several months ago, while on a visit to relatives in Roanoke, Mrs. Hatcher suffered a stroke of paralysis. She was brought back to Richmond and every attention was given. At one time it seemed as if she might recover, but on the evening of Thursday, April 7th, she was stricken again. Had she lived until the coming October, she would have been eighty-four years of age.

The funeral will take place at 4 o'clock this afternoon from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Larus.

Mrs. Lucy Ann Taylor.

Mrs. Lucy Ann Taylor died at 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Fred Scherer, at 1115 S. 11th St. She was the widow of John H. Taylor, who leaves one daughter, Mrs. Judith Scherer, and two grandsons, John and Gordon Scherer.

The funeral will take place at 4 o'clock this afternoon from the Leigh Street Baptist Church.

Mrs. Ann Miller Johnson.

Mrs. Ann Miller Johnson died Sunday at her home at Laurel Hill, Culpeper county, Va., aged seventy-seven years. She is survived by one son, Mr. B. F. Johnson, and three daughters, Mrs. W. H. Kayle, Miss Josephine Johnson and Miss Kate Johnson.

The funeral will take place to-day at the old homestead at Laurel Hill.

Thomas McNiven.

Mr. Thomas McNiven died at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon at his residence, No. 610 East Leigh Street. He had been in bad health for about two years.

The funeral will take place this afternoon from the residence.

John B. Royster.

Mr. John Bacon Royster died at 4 o'clock yesterday morning at the Home for incurables. The funeral will take place at 2:30 o'clock to-day. The interment will be made at St. Peter's Church, in New Kent county.

Funeral of Captain Green.

The remains of Captain William H. Green, assistant to the general manager of the Southern Railway, who died a few days ago in Washington, now rest in a beautiful spot in Hollywood. The funeral was held at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon the body reached Richmond, and was at once escorted to the cemetery, where, at the grave, funeral rites were conducted. The massive casket was in charge of Messrs. W. A. Dodson, Washington; W. M. North, Norfolk; W. W. Croxton, Norfolk; Dr. Jasper Smith, Washington; Mr. J. A. Dodson, Mr. Adam Miller, A. G. Jones, Norfolk.

Quite a party accompanied the remains from Washington. In a special car was Mrs. Green and the following: Mr. W. A. Dodson, Washington; W. M. North, Norfolk; W. W. Croxton, Norfolk; Dr. Jasper Smith, Washington; Mr. J. A. Dodson, Mr. Adam Miller, A. G. Jones, Norfolk.

The funeral of Mrs. H. W. Pollard, which took place from Fairmount Methodist Episcopal Church on Monday last was largely attended. The Aid Society, of which she was a member, attended in a body, and several ladies.

Decased was a devoted wife, loving daughter, and sister and faithful friend. She had many friends and all loved her. She was true to her church and the society of the church. She was severely burned two months ago, but bore all her sufferings with Christian fortitude.